

Tennessee to die in a Korean prisoner of war camp.

Private Wilson was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal, The United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory, selfless service, and great sacrifice of PVT Harry Leon Wilson.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY  
MATTESSON-PARRISH

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and outstanding advocate for higher education, Mrs. Mary Matteson-Parrish. Mrs. Matteson-Parrish served on the North Harris Montgomery Community College District (NHMCCD) Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2005. During her tenure she served as Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Audit Committee Chair.

While on the Board of Trustees, Mary co-chaired the citizen's committee which worked tirelessly to conduct a successful petition drive and election campaign that permitted the Conroe Independent School District to join NHMCCD in 1991 thus creating higher education opportunities for thousands of Montgomery County students and workers. In addition, Mrs. Matteson-Parrish's commitment to improving access and enhancing the educational opportunities for citizens led to the growth of the North Harris Montgomery College District from 6 to 11 independent school districts and the expansion of services and facilities from three campuses to five comprehensive colleges: North Harris College, Kingwood College, Tomball College, Montgomery College and Cy-Fair College.

This week Montgomery College will name its art gallery the Mary Matteson-Parrish Art Gallery in testimony of the community's appreciation and respect for Mary's dedication to and leadership in providing high quality educational opportunities for the citizens of Montgomery County and the entire Eighth District of Texas.

I join with these communities in honoring this outstanding leader and in applauding her work in expanding educational opportunities to all who seek to learn.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONNA  
DIACO

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Diaco, who is a distinguished and devoted nurse.

According to her colleagues, Donna Diaco is an outstanding member of the nursing staff at Desert Springs Hospital. Donna is a constant

role model in her work in the Intensive Care Unit and always expresses compassion and care for her patients as well as her co-workers. This has earned her the respect and esteem of her colleagues and patients alike. Over the course of her 25-year nursing career, Donna has become an impassioned advocate for her patients and colleagues. Her hard work is complemented by her optimistic ability to find the silver lining in every cloud.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Donna Diaco for her service in the Intensive Care Unit at Desert Springs Hospital and the community. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Donna for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community.

CONGRATULATIONS MARJORIE  
(GIGI) KELAHER

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marjorie Kelaheh on the occasion of her retirement from the position of Deputy Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, which became effective as of May 1, 2007.

For over 25 years, Gigi Kelaheh has worked for the House of Representatives in a number of different roles. Like many before her, Gigi got her start on Capitol Hill as an intern. Although many young people choose to leave the Hill once their internship has concluded, Gigi found a home in these halls. Though she was in the earliest stages of her career, her work in the fall of 1978 for Congressman Silvio O. Conte (R-MA) would be the beginning of a lifetime of public service.

Following her graduation from Villanova University in 1979, Gigi returned to Capitol Hill and became a full-time employee for Congressman Conte, the Ranking Minority Member of the House Appropriations Committee. She remained in his office in several different capacities until the Congressman's death in 1991. In September of that year, Gigi became the Federal Agency Coordinator for the White House Conference on Aging under President George H. W. Bush, before joining the office of former Congressman Peter I. Blute (R-MA) in 1993.

If her early career enabled her to serve a single Member at a time, Gigi soon discovered a way to serve every Member of Congress—by joining the Office of the Clerk of the House. In 1995, she began her position as Chief of Legislative Operations with the Clerk. In that position, Gigi managed a staff of twenty who supported day-to-day House Floor operations. She continued to build upon her experience in the Clerk's office, and was appointed Assistant Clerk of the House in December 2003. Her duties included the operations and planning of a 250-person organization responsible for the administration of the legislative processes of the House. In April 2006, Gigi was promoted to Deputy Clerk, where she continued to monitor Floor operations and administration for the Clerk's organization. This month, Gigi will retire from her position to devote more time to her family in Holyoke, Massachusetts. While

she will be missed terribly, I admire the commitment to her family that led to Gigi's decision to retire. After so many years serving the public, it is no surprise that she is once again putting the needs of others first.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Gigi Kelaheh for her years of public service and devotion to the House of Representatives. Without the hard work of dedicated staff like Gigi, the ability of Members of Congress to represent the American public would suffer tremendously. I know that my colleagues join me in thanking her for her assistance over the years, and in wishing her the best now, and in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF AS-  
TRONAUT WALTER M. "WALLY"  
SCHIRRA

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of one of our great space pioneers, Walter M. "Wally" Schirra.

Schirra was one of the original seven Mercury Astronauts and the only Astronaut to fly in all three of the earliest manned space programs: Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. During one of his missions, Schirra conducted the first rendezvous of manned spacecraft in orbit, considered one of the most challenging tasks in space flight at the time.

Schirra was a great astronaut and a great American. What many of my colleagues may not realize is that Schirra became an active businessman and citizen in Colorado after retiring from the space program. I and my fellow Coloradans will miss him. For the benefit of my colleagues, I have attached an article from the Rocky Mountain News about Schirra's impact in Colorado.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 4, 2007]

ASTRONAUT LEFT MARK ON STATE

(By John C. Ensslin, Rocky Mountain News)

Walter M. "Wally" Schirra had a long career in Colorado as a businessman, civic activist and environmental consultant in the decade after he retired as an astronaut.

And like two of his fellow astronauts, John Glenn and Scott Carpenter, he also lived part of the year near Vail, where his daughter Suzanne had been an artist.

In one of his last public appearances in Colorado, Schirra, an avid horseman, took part in a ceremony celebrating an exhibition of cowboy hats at the Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum. The show included Schirra's hat, which sported drawings of trout and elk and pins from range rides he had gone on.

"He was very personable, very accessible, very down to earth," said Steve Friesen, the museum director. "He was a regular guy, but at the same time I had the feeling of standing next to someone who was a major part of history in my life. It was pretty cool."

Schirra moved to Denver shortly after leaving NASA in March 1969. He became president of Regency Investors, a subsidiary of Denver financier John M. King.

He later split from King to form his own company, Environmental Control Corp., which later became part of another company called Semco Inc. The firm worked on environmental impact studies for projects such as a coal gasification plant in Wyoming.